

RESOLUTION No. 16-84

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that Judge Joyce London Alexander Ford will be the guest speaker at the Alabama Democratic Conference 2016 Annual Membership Breakfast, to be held February 20, 2016, at the Ernest L. Knight Center on the campus of Alabama A&M University; and,

WHEREAS, the daughter of the late Edna and Oscar London, Judge Ford is married to Mayor Johnny Ford of Tuskegee, Alabama. A graduate of Howard University (1969) and New England Law School (1972), she was appointed to the United States District Court as a Magistrate Judge in August of 1979. She was the first African-American female Magistrate Judge in the nation, as well as one of the youngest of any race or gender to assume that position. In 1996, she was appointed Chief Judge, becoming the first person of color and the first female Chief Judge in the United States. Upon her retirement in 2009, she was the longest serving Magistrate Judge in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, while attending Howard University on an NAACP scholarship, she worked as a legislative assistant to Tip O'Neill, the late Speaker of the House. As an instructor in Civil Litigation at Harvard University School of Law, Michelle Obama was her student. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including law doctorates from Northeastern University Law School, Bridgewater State College, Suffolk University, North Carolina Central University, and she has received six honorary degrees; and,

WHEREAS, Judge Ford received the C. Francis Strafford Award (the association's highest award) from the National Bar Association (NBA), the Raymond Pace Alexander Award and the Thurgood Marshall Award from the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference presented her with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Award. The Harvard University Foundation for Excellence in Multicultural and Racial Relations awarded her the Medal of Honor, and the Cambridge Community Center conferred Judge Ford with a Cambridge Community Service Award. She has been inducted into the HBCU Hall of Fame; and,

WHEREAS, she takes great pride in her community involvement and created the "Kids, Courts and Citizenship" program. Under this program, 5,000 fifth-grade students from Boston public schools visited her courtroom, held mock trials, and discussed legal issues with her. Judge Ford is President Emeritus of the Urban League of MA; and has served as Chairperson of Massachusetts Black Judges Conference; the

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Judicial Council of the National Bar Association; Chairman of the Board of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C.; a member of the American Bar Association Section on International Law; a member of the Cameras in the Courtroom Committee of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts; and, chairman of the National Policy Commission of the Links, Inc.; and,

WHEREAS, she has published articles covering civil rights, securities law, and civil litigation. She has been featured in Essence Magazine, JET Magazine and Ebony.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge, congratulate, and extend best wishes to Judge Joyce London Alexander Ford in recognition of her appearance as guest speaker at the Alabama Democratic Conference 2016 Annual Membership Breakfast. May you have continued success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 11th day of February, 2016.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 11th day of February, 2016.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama